SITREP.09.02

A SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS (ETOPS) FOR SEPTEMBER WITH A FORECAST TILL MID-NOVEMBER, 2002

SUMMARY

1. Summary: This report provides an update about recent activities on emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle-East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America. The report includes activities in September and a forecast till mid-November, 2002. Key ETOPs, including the desert, Italian, the African migratory, red, brown, Moroccan, and the Madagascar migratory locusts, grasshoppers, armyworm and grain-eating red-billed quelea birds are covered by the report. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is outlined in the remainder of this summary with detailed accounts provided thereafter.

DESERT LOCUST, *SCHISTOCERCA GREGARIA* (FORSKAL)

2. **Desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskal)**. Despite the good rains that fell in many places in Sahelian West Africa and Northern Africa and ecological conditions slightly improving, the desert locust situation remained relatively calm. Only a few scattered, solitary adults were sighted in a few places in northern Mali, southern Mauritania, and eastern Niger. It is likely that ecological conditions will improve and insignificant numbers of locusts begin appearing during the forecast period in areas of recent rainfall. Conditions will remain calm elsewhere in the regions.

3. Groups of hoppers and fledglings as well as small-scale breeding were reported on the southern coast of Yemen near Aden. As a result of the unusually heavy rain that fell in the winter breeding areas along the southern coast of Eritrea, Djibouti, the Red Sea coast of Yemen and areas in Saudi Arabia, breeding conditions will improve and could result in small-scale breeding during the forecast period. Conditions will likely remain calm elsewhere in the central region countries.

4. Breeding conditions were reported favorable in Rajasthan, India, but no locusts were sighted in the region. A few isolated adults were reported in the summer breeding areas in Tharparkar and the Cholchistan Desert, Pakistan along the Indian border in Pakistan. Conditions remained calm elsewhere in the region and no significant development are likely during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUSTS AND GRASSHOPPERS.

5. **Red locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville)**. The red locust situation in the IRLCO/CSA region remained calm with only a few locusts remaining in the unburned patches of grasses in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere, and Malagarasi outbreak areas in Tanzania. Control operations that were launched against the red locust outbreaks in these regions were concluded. No further treatments were

required. Very few scattered adult locusts were reported in other outbreak areas, including Buzi-Gorongosa, Lake Chilwa and Kafue Flats. Rukwa Valley and Mweru wa Ntipa outbreak areas remained free from locusts.

6. **Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.).** No reports were received on the Malagasy migratory locust and the red locusts in Madagascar at the time this report was compiled.

7. A late received report indicated that some 3,000 ha were seen infested with a mixture of grasshoppers and African migratory locust, ***Locusta migratoria*** (Linne), in ElGadarif area eastern Sudan in mid September. The crop under threat was Sorghum. No further activities were reported on the African migratory locust, ***L. migratoria*** (Linne), brown locust, ***Locustana pardalina*** (Walker), Moroccan/Mediterranean locust, ***Dociostaurus maroccanus*** *(*Thunberg), Italian locust, ***Calliptamus italicus*** (Linne), the Senegalese grasshopper, **Oedaleus senegalenis** (Krauss), ***Anacridium melanorhodon*** (Walker). Unconfirmed reports indicated that the stink grasshopper, ***Zonocerus variegatus*** (Linne) populations were sighted in western Sudan. No outbreaks are expected during the forecast period.

No reports were received on locusts from Latin America or other countries in the region. No locust activities were reported from Central Asia.

8. **Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker).** No reports were received on armyworm in the DLCO/EA or the IRLCO/CSA member countries. Significant activities on armyworm are not likely during the forecast period.

9. **Red-billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.).** A late received report indicated that quelea roosts were controlled in August in eight locations in South Africa and 14 locations in Zimbabwe. In September, quelea birds were reported causing damage to wheat in Uasin Gishu, and on rice in Kisumu, Homa Bay and Suba Districts Kenya. Control operations were launched by the Plant Protection Services in collaboration with the DLCO/EA. Although reports were not received from Zimbabwe, it is likely that quelea populations may pose a threat to barley and wheat crops during this time of the year. Apart from that, no further reports were received on quelea from the other outbreak countries in the region, however, it is likely that quelea birds will continue being a problem to small-grain cereal crops in Nyanza Province, Kenya. End of Summary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

10. Good to moderate rains fell in September in the Timetrine, Adrar des Iforas, Mali, southwestern Mauritania, Central Tamesna, Niger, in Abeche and Fada, and Chad.

11. With the exception of the light rains that were reported in a few times in southern Algeria, the rest of northern and northwestern Africa remained fairly dry in September.

12. Good rains fell in the summer breeding areas of central and western Sudan and western lowlands of Eritrea. Light rains also fell in

eastern Ethiopia and western Somalia. Heavy rains fell along both sides of the southern Red Sea coasts where ecological conditions were already favorable.

13. Moderate rains fell along the Red Sea coastal plains between Qunfidah, Saudi Arabia and Bit Al-Faqih, Yemen. The interior of Yemen, adjacent areas in Saudi Arabia, northern Oman, and the inland areas also received light to moderate rains in September.

14. Light to moderate rains fell in September in Rajasthan, India along the Indo-Pakistan border where conditions were reported favorable. Light rains were also reported in the Tharparkar Desert, Pakistan, but conditions were less favorable in this region than in Rajasthan.

15. The weather conditions in the red locust outbreak areas remained mostly dry except in Buzi-Gorongosa where light showers fell.

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITIES

16. **Western and northwestern Africa.** Isolated immature and mature adults were seen in September in Mauritania at the following locations: 1715N/0655W, 1702N/0941W, 1829N/1131W, 1751N/1228W and small-scale breeding was in progress near Aioun and Oualala. Immature and mature adults were reported in September by Nomads at 1912N/0052E in Adrar des Iforas, at 1922N/0010W and 1910N/ 0005W in the Timetrine, and at 1827N/0022E near Gao, Mali. Small-scale breeding was reported at 1744N/0715E, north of Agadiz and isolated immature adults were seen around 1754N/0559E in Tamesna, Niger. No locusts were reported from Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

17. Forecast: Small-scale breeding is expected to continue in southern and central Mauritania. A few adults are expected to persist and breed in a few places in Mali where locust numbers will likely increase in a few places in Adrar des Iforas, Timetrine, and Tilemsi. Small-scale breeding is also likely in Tamesna and western Air, Niger, and Abeche, Fada, and Ennedi Hills, Chad. No significant locust activities are expected in these countries and no locust activities are expected elsewhere in these regions during the forecast period.

18. **Eastern Africa, northeastern Africa, and the Near East**. Mature adult locusts were seen copulating and laying eggs in the first week of September on the southern coastal plains, northwest of Aden, Yemen. Hoppers and fledglings were also seen on some 2,000 ha at 1302N/4434E, near Am Rija, Yemen. The densities of the hoppers and fledglings varied from 2-15 and 350-1500 insects per square meter, respectively. A few desert locust hoppers mixed with African migratory locusts were treated on 38 ha on September 4 by ground means at Sharq Oweinat, in the Western Desert, Egypt. No locusts were reported from other countries in these regions.

19. Forecast: Small groups of adults may form and move toward the Red Sea coastal plains as conditions in the plains near Aden will begin drying. A few scattered adults are also likely

to be seen breeding on a small-scale in areas of recent rainfall in a few places in Northern Darfur, Kordofan, and parts of eastern Sudan, but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period. A few scattered adults may begin to appear and breed in the Red Sea coastal areas of Eritrea, along the coastal plains of Djibouti and in Jizan and Qunfidah, Saudi Arabia and begin breeding on a small-scale. It is likely that the locust situation will remain calm in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Oman, Kuwait, UAR, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria, and Turkey during the forecast period.

20. **Eastern region.** A few mature and immature locusts were seen in the Tharparkar and Cholistan deserts, Pakistan during the second half of August and the first half of September. No locusts were seen during the surveys carried out in Rajasthan and Gujarat, India in the first half of September. No locusts were reported in Iran and Afghanistan in September.

21. Forecast: Locust numbers will likely continue declining and the situation will remain calm during the forecasting period, however, if more rainfall occurs, then a few adults will appear and begin breeding.

OTHER LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITIES

22. **Moroccan/Mediterranean locust, *D. maroccanus (*Thunberg*)* and the Italian locust, *C. italicus* (L):** No reports were received on the Moroccan/ Mediterranean or the Italian locust in Central Asian. No locust report was received from this region at the time this report was compiled.

23. Forecast: No locust activities are expected to occur during the forecast period. Eggs that were laid by the Moroccan locust in Afghanistan and other countries in the region will remain inactive until next the Spring.

24. **Latin America and the Carribean (LAC)**. No reports were received on locusts or grasshoppers in LAC countries.

25. Forecast. Limited activities may occur in a few places, but no significant developments are expected during the forecast period.

26. **Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville).** A few red locust populations at varying persisted in the unburnt patches of grasses in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere and Malagarasi outbreak areas in Tanzania, however, control was not necessitated. Scattered adult locusts were reported in the Lake Chilwa plains, Malawi, Buzi-Gorongosa, Mozambique and the Kafue Flats, Zambia. The Mweru wa Ntipa outbreak area in Zambia, and the Rukwa Valley in Tanzania continued to be relatively calm.

27. Forecast: The residual red locust populations in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere and Malagarasi will sexually mature in October and begin breeding at the onset of the rains in November. This situation is also expected to occur in the other red locust outbreak areas. Hatching is likely to occur in late December or early January 2003 depending on when egg laying begins.

Note: The end of the current drought affecting Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, will likely trigger serious outbreaks of ETOPs and affect the traditional red locust as well as armyworm outbreak regions in these

countries. Post-drought outbreaks of brown locusts may also become more evident in southern Botswana, southern Namibia and South Africa. It is imperative that regular survey and monitoring activities are implemented.

28. **Madagascar migratory locust, *L. migratoria capito* (L.).** No detailed information was available on the Malagasy migratory locust at the time this report was compiled.

29. **Brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker)**: No reports were received on brown locust, *L. pardalina* (Walker). No outbreaks are expected during the forecast period, however, as always, vigilant surveillance and monitoring are recommended to avoid unexpected surprises and minimize any potential damage to crops and pasture.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITIES

30. **Armyworm, *S. exempta* (Walker).** No report was received on armyworm outbreaks from either the DLCO./EA or IRLCO-CSA member countries.

31. Forecast: It should be noted that periods of drought are often followed by widespread pest outbreaks and armyworms are no exception to this. Given the prevailing climatic conditions in the southern African regions, there is a likelihood of armyworm outbreak occurring in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and neighboring countries after the drought condition ends.

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITIES

32. **Red-billed quelea, *Q. quelea* (L).** The red billed quelea birds were reported causing damage to wheat in Uasin Gishu district and rice in Kisumu, Homa Bay, Siaya and Suba districts, Kenya. Control operations were carried out by the Plant Protection Services in collaboration with the help of DLCO-EA's spray aircraft.

33. Forecast: Quelea and other grain eating birds are likely to continue being a problem to small grain cereal crops in Nyanza Province, Kenya and elsewhere in neighboring countries during the forecast period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

34. Although the current locust and other migratory pest populations, largely did not call for significant control actions, some intensive control operations were carried out against quelea birds in Kenya. It should be noted that, if left unattended, there is a likelihood of the pest populations to gradually increase in the coming months to a level that could pose serious threats to crops and pasture. Therefore, it is important that regular monitoring, surveillance and reporting are maintained and that the information is communicated promptly to the appropriate bodies within the national, regional and international structure.

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

35. The Africa Emergency Locust/ Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) project is administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau for Africa (AFR), Office of Sustainable Development (SD), Crisis Mitigation and Recovery division (CMR). AELGA works

closely with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Agriculture Production and Protection Division, Plant Protection Services, Migratory Pest Unit (UN/FAO/AGPP/PPPD /MPU), DLCO/EA, IRLOC/CSA, USAID bilateral and regional missions, host country ministries, and research establishments. AELGA regularly collects information on ETOPs from these and other entities, including the Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP) to continuously monitor and analyze the potential risks for large-scale emergency outbreaks, compile and disseminate its SITREPS to all interested parties. Unsolicited reports or information about ETOP situations and activities in your region or country are always welcome and much appreciated.

36. Missions with programs on food security, emergency pests and other related activities, host countries and regional organizations with similar portfolios, and other stakeholders are **kindly requested to forward their reports by the last day of the reporting month or within the first three days of the following month. Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, ybelayneh@afr-sd.org FAX: 202-219-0506 (USA)** with a cc to Drs. Joe Vorgetts (jvorgetts@afr-sd.org) and Harry Bottenberg,

For more information on the weather conditions, please, visit the following web sites:

http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/engslish/esahel/sehtoc.htm
http://www.fews.net

For more information on ETOPs activities, you may visit:

http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm
http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AELGA'S ACTIVITIES, DO VISIT US AT OUR WEB SITE:WWW.AELGA.NET

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control. Nov. 2002. **Those interested can contact Dr. Yeneneh T. Belayneh, via e-mail: ybelayneh@afr-sd.org or phone/fax: 202-219-0495/202-219-0506 (USA)**

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